



Industrial Laminates Norplex, Inc.
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June 8, 2012

U.S. EPA Region 7
Federal Building
210 Walnut Street, Room 473
Des Moines, IA 50309-2109
Attn: Gary R. Witkovski,
E-mail: witkovski.gary@epa.gov



AWMD / WEMM
JUN 18 2012
RECEIVED

Re:
Industrial Laminates / Norplex, Inc.
dba Norplex-Micarta
665 Lybrand St
Postville, IA 52162

Dear Mr. Witkovski,

On May 14th, 2012, Heather Wood was at our facility in Postville, IA to conduct a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Compliance Evaluation Inspection.

At the conclusion of the above inspection, Ms. Wood provided us a Notice of Preliminary Findings (NOPF). Also, we were encouraged to provide a response to this NOPF.

Documenting the findings (regulatory references were those provided on the NOPF):

- 1) Failure to label used oil tank as "used oil" (40 CFR 279.22 (c)(1)).
- 2) Failure to close containers of universal waste lamps (40 CFR 273.13 (d)(1)).
- 3) Failure to conduct weekly inspections of container storage areas (40 CFR 262.34 (a)(1)(i) → 265.174).
- 4) Failure to conduct annual training of hazardous waste personnel (40 CFR 262.34 (a)(4) → 265.16 (c)).

On June 6, 2012 we were notified of an additional preliminary finding by Heather Wood. That finding is documented as finding number 5 below.

- 5) Failure to transport the used oil filters to a used oil collection center that is registered, licensed, permitted, or recognized by a state/county/municipal government to manage used oil (40 CFR 279.24(a)(3)).

Below you will find a response to each of the preliminary findings listed above. The response for preliminary findings 1, 2, 3 and 4 are as previously presented in our letter dated May 21, 2012. We have added a response for finding number 5 to this letter.

Preliminary Finding #1: Failure to label used oil tank as "used oil" (40 CFR 279.22 (c)(1)).

The used oil tank found to be outside of compliance is a drain tank. I have included an image of the tank as it was found outside of compliance as well as an image of the tank that is now in compliance. This corrective action was completed on 5-15-2012.

RCRA



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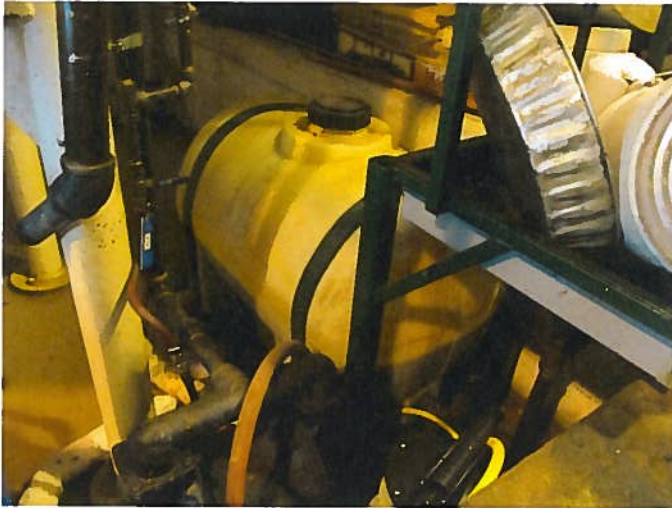


Figure 1: Drain tank found out of compliance (not labeled "Used Oil" per preliminary finding #1).



Figure 2: Drain tank in compliance (labeled "Used Oil" in response to preliminary finding #1).

Preliminary Finding #2: Failure to close containers of universal waste lamps (40 CFR 273.13 (d)(1)).

We accumulate a small number of universal waste lamps other than the 4 foot or 8 foot fluorescent type. Up to the point of the finding, we accumulated these in corrugated cardboard boxes. Although some of the container flaps were "tucked" in, the container was not properly closed nor was it taped shut. I have included an image of a container in this condition.



Figure 3: Universal Waste Lamps container found out of compliance (top flaps are partially open per preliminary finding #2).

As a temporary fix, we have instructed that all universal waste lamp containers which are stored in corrugated cardboard boxes be taped shut when not adding to them. I have attached an image of a container taped shut. The date of the temporary corrective action was 5-15-2012.



Figure 4: Universal Waste Lamps container in compliance (flaps taped shut in response to preliminary finding #2).

The follow-up fix for this is to require that these types of universal waste lamps be stored in fiberboard drums. Below is an image of the drums that the lamps will be stored in. The date of the follow-up corrective action was 5-17-2012.



Figure 5: 2' fiberboard drum for storage of universal waste lamps other than 4' and 8' fluorescent type (in response to preliminary finding #2).

Preliminary Finding #3: Failure to conduct weekly inspections of container storage areas (40 CFR 262.34 (a)(1)(i) → 265.174).

Norplex-Micarta had 2-3 persons (the third person was available only when not travelling as part of his duties overseas) who are authorized to do the weekly container inspections. As a result of this finding, we will seek out and train additional people to ensure that someone is always available to conduct an inspection at least weekly.

Exclusively, the inspections conducted since mid-July, 2011 have been by a single person. Some confusion existed as to who was primarily responsible for doing inspections and when someone other than that person should do the inspections. As a result, we now have a formal policy in place naming a primary inspection person as well as outlining how that person should delegate the responsibility to his/her backup(s).

Preliminary Finding #4: Failure to conduct annual training of hazardous waste personnel (40 CFR 262.34 (a)(4) → 265.16 (c)).

Oversight caused us to miss the training in 2010.

In March, 2011, Jon Thorstenson accepted a position as Engineering Manager for a new site location with Norplex-Micarta. Prior to this time, Jon was the sole person responsible for coordinating the RCRA training. After the change, Jon was to retain the role of Global Environmental Compliance with some of the day-to-day activities transferred to Tim Delaney and Deanna Giancaspro. Unfortunately, we had lack of understanding as to whether or not the responsibility for coordinating training was an activity to be transferred.

At this time, responsibility to coordinate the training has shifted to Tim Delaney and Deanna Giancaspro, who share primary responsibility.

In addition, as an ongoing improvement, an additional person will take training such that we will have at least 3 people authorized to conduct the annual RCRA review training and/or the initial training for new hires (as applicable). This third person would assume secondary responsibility for coordinating training.

In the event that either of the primary persons is unable to continue in this capacity (due to reassignment, promotion, transfer, termination, etc.), the secondary person would move in to the primary role so that we would always have two primary persons. Also in that event, a new secondary person would be identified and trained.

Finding #5: Failure to transport the used oil filters to a used oil collection center that is registered, licensed, permitted, or recognized by a state/county/municipal government to manage used oil (40 CFR 279.24(a)(3)).

We have contacted Clayton county Recycling and confirmed that they are not authorized to handle used oil. After hot draining the filters, the persons involved thought that it was acceptable to transport the used oil filters to Clayton County Recycling.

As a result of this finding, we are still hot draining the filters as before (treating the drained material as used oil), but we will now be using Safety-Kleen to manage shipment and disposal of the used oil filters. Safety-Kleen currently handles our used oil.

The following person is authorized to make statements for the facility:

Alan Johnson, Plant Manager
ajohnson@norplex-micarta.com
563-864-4275

The following persons were consulted in the preparation of this response:

Tim Delaney, Product Development Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer
Pat Harms, Facility Engineer
Dave Lensing, Product Manager – Sheet
Dixie Doeppke, HR Manager
Jon Thorstenson, Engineering Manager, Asia-Pacific
Deanna Giancaspro, Manufacturing Engineer

Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification for any issues.

Regards,



Alan Johnson
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